Town of Jericho Development Review Board Jericho Town Hall Thursday, October 27, 2016

#### **Minutes**

Members Present: Barry King, Bruce Jacobs, Joe Flynn, Stephanie Hamilton, Jeff York

Members Absent: None

Guests: Chris Flinn (Zoning Administrator), Amy Richardson (Secretary), Norma Blades,

Jordan Armstrong, David Villeneuve, Chris Haggerty, Cynthia Hill, Scott

Simpson, Martha Prince, Marjorie Hunt, Malcolm Hunt, Viola Hunt, Larry Young

## MEETING AGENDA

• A request to the DRB by Marjorie B. Hunt for a Boundary Line Adjustment. This property is located at 150 Lee River Road in the Village Zoning Districts.

- A request to the DRB by Scott Simpson for Simpson's High Meadow, LLC for a Preliminary Plat, Final Plat review for a 2-Lot Subdivision consisting of approximately 202 acres. This parcel is located at 65 Bentley Lane in the Forestry and Agricultural Zoning Districts (pending Rural Agriculture Residential Zoning District).
- A request to the DRB from 364 VT Route 15, LLC to amend a previously approved site plan. This property is located at 364 VT Route 15 in the Village Center Zoning District.
- Approve minutes from September 8, 2016.

Mr. King called the public meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He read the warning. He asked the members to disclose any conflicts of interest or ex parte communication. There were none. Mr. King read the Interested Persons Law. The public was sworn in at 7:05 p.m.

# 1. A request to the DRB by Marjorie B. Hunt for a Boundary Line Adjustment. This property is located at 150 Lee River Road in the Village Zoning Districts.

## Applicant's Presentation

Mr. Young oriented people to the plan, noting this was subdivided probably 10 years ago. He presented the application as follows:

Malcolm, the son, lives here; that was deeded in 2015. Martha lives here and that was deeded a long time ago. These kids have been encroaching on their mother's land for a while. Malcolm wants to get a little extra piece there and would like to keep the 60' right of way up there, not knowing what the future will bring. It is just a flat wooded corridor that goes through there. Malcolm presently mows part of it anyways. Again, with Martha, we are just giving her a little bit more backyard room, to get her barn in the picture here and trying to stay the 10' off. It is as simple as that; nothing else is happening with the property.

Mr. Flinn stated just so the Board knows, this is in the Village District. He said I can do boundary line adjustments that are consistent with what is allowed for size in the Village District, which is 1 acre. He said Martha is getting 1.04 acres, Malcolm is getting 1.43 acres; it is beyond the authority that I have to grant, so it is before the DRB. Mr. King thanked Mr. Flinn for clarifying that.

## **Board Questions**

Mr. York stated we were given two plats, a B1 and a B2. He said the landowners on the other side of Orr Road, one is identified as being the Abbotts and the other one is identified as being someone North. Mr. Flinn said I think the other one is Martin. Mr. Young stated this should probably go together, so Martin should go over here. He said this lot here is one lot, the Abbott lot; Martin is probably in the wrong spot. Mr. York asked if the Abbotts are an adjoining landowner. Mr. Young responded they are on the other side of Orr Road. Mr. Flinn stated from a notice standpoint, they are an abutting landowner; I have talked with John and he is familiar with this proposal. Mr. York said I was wondering if we use that one for the abutting landowners and not this one, if we would get a different list. Mr. Flinn explained that the applicant supplies the abutters listing, we confirm that and send that out.

Mr. Flynn said tell me about the 60' right of way you are reserving in regards to other access to the property. He asked is there a reason that is being held; is there no other convenient access. Mr. Young responded there is all kinds of access along Lee River Road. He said Orr Road ends right here, but this was approved for an extension for this lot here many years ago. He stated this is kind of a hard route to take here, but it could be used as access. Mr. Young said it is something that Marge had in her mind to keep for whatever. He said it is a nice, flat, easy road into anything in the back; it is not a road.

Mr. Flynn asked whether that will only be for access, or will it be for utilities or whatever. Mr. Young responded yes, for whatever; I don't think she is going to limit herself to anything in particular. He noted I haven't seen the deed yet. Mr. Flynn asked will you be looking for the deed to incorporate that language that it won't just be for access, it will be for utilities, access, whatever. Mr. Young responded yes, an easement for whatever purposes Marge wants to use if for. Ms. Hunt stated I would have no restrictions on it; if anything is proper, I should be able to make access wherever I want to make it, if I ever want to.

Mr. Flynn clarified the only other access to the currently Malcolm parcel is where you have the driveway shown on B1. Mr. Young agreed, saying Malcolm comes down Orr Road and the driveway is off Orr Road up here. He said he does have a circuitous path with a tractor up through there; that is his only access off Orr Road. Mr. King said Larry can you point out on the right of way on Orr Road which part of it is in disrepair, if you will. Mr. Young indicated the location. Ms. Prince indicated the location of John Abbott's, saying this road comes off of Lee River Road and comes up to here. She said this dead ends and goes into John's driveway; noting this used to be an old road that went all the up over. She stated this one comes down on South Orr Road; Malcolm comes in from Orr Road on that end and his driveway comes off into here.

Mr. Young noted there is a turnaround on both ends. Ms. Prince stated the Town dead ends it right here, even though on this lot that she put in there is access for hammerhead turn for this lot if that ever gets sold or anything happens. She said John Abbott's only goes as far as here; as far as anything over on this side, technically Orr Road goes in between mom's land over here. She said Orr Road goes between any of the lots over on the other side. Mr. Flynn stated Larry, you have abandoned on there, but has this been discontinued by the Town. Mr. Young responded I don't think it has been discontinued.

Ms. Hunt stated we tried in 1981 talking to open Orr Road; at that time, we were thinking maybe in the future way back in '81. She said we were told that we would have to pay to have it opened and

we had no reason to want to go through that at that time. She said here it is 2016 and we still haven't pursued having Orr Road opened. Ms. Hunt said I don't believe it has ever been officially thrown up as a Town road. She stated I think we could still petition to have it opened, but we would probably end up having to pay for it.

Mr. Flynn clarified on the Martha Prince section, that is the barn in the back. Mr. Young stated it is the shed. Mr. Flynn asked Chris, did we look at the setbacks on this; is that shed outside the setbacks. Mr. Flinn responded it is outside, it is conforming. Mr. King clarified to the new line. Mr. Flinn agreed. Mr. King stated so that moves the structure from one plat to the other. Mr. Young agreed.

Mr. Flynn stated on that same parcel, you have the southwestern line. He said there are two distances, but there is one missing for the new section. Mr. Young clarified there is a distance here and a distance here. Mr. Flynn agreed, saying you are missing one. Mr. Flinn said it is 238 minus 287. Mr. Flynn said I just want to confirm that the math will make that work. Mr. Young said okay. Ms. Hunt asked if he wanted this plan. Mr. Flynn responded no, I have both and the measurement is missing on both. Mr. Young stated I know what you mean Joe. Mr. Flinn noted it is just that one leg. Mr. King asked the DRB members if they had any other questions or whether there was anything else Chris wanted to get testimony on. There were no further questions.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. King explained the public comment process. He asked if there was any public comment on this application. There was none. Mr. King closed the public hearing. He explained the applicant would receive a decision within 45 days, noting it is usually sooner.

2. A request to the DRB by Scott Simpson for Simpson's High Meadow, LLC for a Preliminary Plat, Final Plat review for a 2-Lot Subdivision consisting of approximately 202 acres. This parcel is located at 65 Bentley Lane in the Forestry and Agricultural Zoning Districts (pending Rural Agriculture Residential Zoning District).

# Applicant's Presentation

Mr. Simpson presented the application as follows:

We are essentially subdividing the property into a smaller lot that will contain my family's second home, indicating the lot that will be retained. This lot, that goes south from here, will be subdivided and it follows pretty close to the land that was conserved at the Vermont Land Trust. This whole area is going to be residential use. The Land Trust land is all within this new boundary. If we are able to work something out with the New England Wilderness Trust, they want to purchase the land so that it has a higher level of protection than it does now. We were going to raise the issue of the driveway versus road, but that is all straightened out.

Mr. Flinn stated what Scott is referring to is that there is a private driveway access to this residence here. He said the Board had questions with regard to gaining access to this lot, saying there is shown here a 20' right of way. Mr. Simpson said it is going to be re-labeled to 30'. Mr. Flinn said there is a right of way that just needs to be re-labeled. He stated that will be reflected in the deeds that allows access to the newly created lot, which is Lot 2.

# **Board Questions**

Mr. King asked Chris to go back to the other map. He asked am I correct that there are three lots that are affected, in the sense that there are presently two lots served on that. He clarified from the property where the Town road ends, there is actually that front triangle, right. Mr. Simpson responded this is all one lot now; we got that straightened out with the Town. Mr. King asked where is the end of Bentley Lane. Mr. Flinn indicated the location. Mr. King stated we are trying to count lots. Mr. Flinn counted three, indicating each on the plan. Mr. King clarified that other line is the division between the two zoning districts, which doesn't affect the plats. Mr. Flinn agreed.

Mr. York clarified Lot 1 is going to have two residences on it; it is going to have Sue's residence on it and the other residence. Mr. Simpson agreed, saying Sue's is a life estate deed on the house, not the land. Mr. King stated the point is that there is only one lot there, it has two houses on it; that is conforming right. Mr. Flinn agreed. Mr. King said there are two units on the one and how that is held in ownership does not affect this I don't think. Mr. Flinn said no, essentially, Scott has his house; he builds another house; he gives me a life estate. Mr. King agreed the history of it doesn't matter; it is two units on one lot.

Mr. Flynn asked whether it is the intention that after Susan's passing that someone else will have a life estate on that, or that will it just roll back into your family. Mr. Simpson responded that will just roll back to us. Mr. Flynn said the 30' access all the way up to the remaining lands, the 172 acres; what is the intended use for that. He asked whether it will be for vehicle access, or foot traffic only; what is the end result of keeping that. Mr. Simpson responded that the wilderness trust, or whoever ends up with this lot if we do it, would want to be able to get a car or vehicle in here, so they can by foot get onto this property. He said one of their conditions is no wheel access at all, so it will just be foot access for trail maintenance, or posting of boundary markers. Mr. Flynn clarified there is no intended need for emergency vehicles or whatever to get to Lot 2. Mr. Simpson responded no, there are no structures.

Ms. Hamilton clarified the easement to Lot 2 serves as an access easement; it is not going to be for utilities, just straight access. Mr. Simpson agreed. Mr. King asked Chris, is there anything else you wanted to get testimony on. Mr. Flinn responded no, saying I will just confirm that the easement get relabeled properly before the plat gets filed. Mr. King agreed, that could be a condition. Mr. Haggerty referenced Section 5.2.2, the minimum width is 30' for lots with non-road frontage.

Mr. Flynn stated the Town road ends at the Bentley Lane cul-de-sac, right. Mr. Simpson agreed. Mr. Flynn said you have a three-rod right of way that goes through the garage; it doesn't have much bearing on what we are doing here. Mr. Simpson agreed, noting the reason my parents deeded this part of the land over to me, it is on both sides of the road and you can build pretty much as close as you want to. Mr. Flynn clarified it is pretty much a private road. Mr. Simpson agreed, saying we didn't want a long driveway to plow.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. King explained the public comment process, asking if there was any public comment. There was none. Mr. King closed the public hearing. He explained the applicant would receive a decision within 45 days, noting it is usually sooner.

3. A request to the DRB from 364 VT Route 15, LLC to amend a previously approved site plan. This property is located at 364 VT Route 15 in the Village Center Zoning District.

## Applicant's Presentation

Mr. Armstrong presented the application as follows:

I am representing 364 Vermont Route 15. I want to start off by saying my apologies for this amendment being brought to your attention now, after the building was built. To be quite frank with you, I was also the Project Manager for PCM to build this building for the owner; it is the same owner of both companies. What we are asking here is originally on the plans that were approved by DRB there was a fence. The second page shows the fence around the mechanical equipment in the back of the building. It is just called out to be a chain link fence. Our request is, obviously that we did not install that fence per the approved plans, that we not install that fence. There are a couple of reasons for that. Currently if we were to put that fence in, if you look at the photos, you can see that the fence would be located in the driveway, it would be in the pavement. We have some concerns about damage to the fence from plows, delivery trucks, shopping patrons. It would really become quite the maintenance issue from year to year we believe. The other issue here is you can see the close proximity to the edge of the concrete pat that the mechanical equipment is on. We would have to have very large gates in order to service this equipment; those gates would obviously have to swing out into the traffic, into the parking lot where cars are travelling at all times and that would be a safety concern of ours. If you close the gates once you are in there, there is not enough room to service those pieces of equipment. Those were our two main concerns with installing this fence. We don't really believe it was an aesthetics issue because it was just a chain-link fence and as we all know you can see through a chain-link fence; you are still going to see the mechanical equipment behind it. Those are the reasons that we are requesting that we be allowed to not install the fence at this time. Again, to be honest with you, the design change between DRB approval and when I took over the project as the Project Manager, the fence was taken off the plans as a value engineering option. In hind sight, they should have probably come back to you guys at that point and asked for the change in design. Those are the reasons I didn't install the fence as the builder and now representing the owner, we are requesting that we not be required to put it in for those reasons.

# **Board Questions**

Mr. York stated I also don't see this gas thing with the yellow gate around it; that is what you submitted to the DRB initially. Mr. Armstrong responded it is. Mr. York asked why isn't this thing on there. Mr. Armstrong responded the yellow guardrail around the gas meter is a requirement from Vermont Gas to have some sort of protection, some sort of guardrail around there; it is a gas regulator. Mr. York asked why wasn't there anything on this drawing. Mr. Armstrong responded that originally the gas was shown coming up in the corner on this elevation of the bump out between the piece of the mechanical equipment and the inside corner of this building; that was not possible to do because of the proximity to the building of the mechanical equipment. He explained we had to locate it on the east elevation of the bump out; being that it juts out into the parking lot, Vermont Gas requires that we have some sort of protection.

Mr. Flynn said Chris, in regards to the chain-link, the original approval, was there any screening on it. Mr. Flinn responded yes, it was screened. Mr. Flynn asked whether it was 6' high. Mr. King said if it's to scale. Mr. Armstrong stated the way we looked at it, that door is a 7' door; it is about an 8'. He said going out there right now, I would guess that that is not tall enough to clear the top of the equipment. Mr. Flynn asked whether Chris has the picture you were looking at in the back, showing which picture he was referring to. Mr. Flinn displayed a photo on the screen. Mr. Flynn stated one of your comments was in regards to snow plowing; explain to me how adding the fence is going to make that more difficult. Mr. Armstrong explained where we would have to install the fence would

be in the actual pavement, we would pour holes into the pavement, so it would be on this side of the concrete, which is obviously in the parking lot.

Mr. Flynn clarified it would be right on the edge of the concrete though. Mr. Armstrong said our hope is that the snow plow would not hit the fence, but being that he is on the same elevation as the fence, the pavement and the fence are on the same elevation, he certainly could hit it with his plow. Mr. Flynn stated the way I see that, you have 6" to 8", he is going to have a tough time seeing where that slab as. He said at least with a fence, it is always going to be sticking up, so he is going to have a clear cut how close he can get. He said as far as snow plowing that is the only trouble I am finding; the only way he is going to find that curb is by brail if he hits it. Mr. Armstrong stated it is in line with the jut out, so if he knows the property at all he will understand that. He said the concrete does pretty much run between this bump out of the building and the edge of the covered storage.

Mr. Flynn said the other question is in regards to gates, don't typically those gates fold all the way back onto themselves, so they don't hit anything in the parking lot to begin with. Mr. Armstrong responded they could. He said the one thing I would need to check on is being the size that the gates would need to be; it would need to be to the edge of this mechanical piece of equipment. Mr. Flynn clarified you need to get each piece of equipment out and you don't want to lift it over the gate. Mr. Armstrong responded no, the equipment stays.

Mr. Flynn stated your comment in regards to needing a large gate, is it because they have to open wide enough to get these structures out, you don't want to lift them over the top of the fence. Mr. Armstrong said no, the reason we need them so big is that all of these access panels open out and you can see there are access panels from one side to the other. He stated actually this is the most important one, that is where you are changing the filters on a regular basis, six month or eight month basis. He said at some point, all of these doors, which all swing out toward the parking lot, would need to be accessed. He said there is just not that amount of space within the edge of the concrete.

Mr. Armstrong said if we had swinging gates that swing all the way back; the only question I would have is if I have a gate with the edge of it is at this mechanical equipment, could I swing it all the way back with the building here and now this guard rail here as well. Mr. Flinn suggested it could be put on rollers. Mr. Flynn said you won't get the length on one. He stated Chris, you are right, you could maybe have one roller and the other one swing this way; looking at the picture, they both go from right to left, you might be able to. Mr. Armstrong clarified it could slide from right to left. Mr. Flynn discussed an example. Mr. King stated I don't think it is our purpose tonight to design a fence. Mr. Flynn agreed.

Mr. York asked for a picture of the other side, the loading zone side. He asked if there is a fence down there that was put in. Mr. Flinn displayed a photo from inside the shed, looking northwest, indicating the location of the yellow rails for the gas, the mechanical unit with the swing doors, the edge of the concrete, the air cooling unit, and the cooling exchange. Mr. Armstrong stated the cooling unit is for all of the refrigerators and freezers inside the market. Mr. York clarified I really meant the south side. Mr. Armstrong stated it is basically that covered storage that picture was taken from, so it makes it hard to see; it is basically just a shed roof.

Mr. Flinn said you can't really see it here, there is a shed roof here; these are pictures I took. He displayed another photo, indicating the shed, concrete pad, gas meter, and the other bump out; this is the area that was approved as screened. Mr. York asked what are those devices. Mr. Armstrong responded this is the HVAC unit and this one is for the cooling of refrigerators and freezers for the

food. He also indicted the supply and return air ducts for the building. Mr. York stated they are big and shiny silver. He asked if they will age. Mr. Armstrong responded I don't know. Mr. Flinn said they are insulated. Mr. York noted that putting a fence there isn't going to hide those two big vents. Mr. Flynn said in regards to noise, it is not much of a fence, but it still has some dampening. He stated I have been around these units before, there is some noise coming off of them. Mr. Armstrong agreed, saying as far as how much in decibels, I couldn't really say, but there definitely is noise coming off of them. He said the concern I would have is that I don't think the fence would dampen it much. He stated the majority of the noise is coming from these fans up top that are constantly running.

Mr. Flynn said you also mentioned Jordan about truck traffic and so on; explain to me how the fence is going to impact trucks going back there. Mr. Armstrong responded the concern is really the trucks hitting them; it is not going to affect the flow of the trucks. He said it is just a concern that if one of the trucks is backing in, working back into this back door, backing up and stuff like that. He said it is a concern just like any other drive that they might hit the fence; hitting the fence would obviously create a maintenance issue. Mr. Armstrong said it is definitely something that would get hit from time to time. He said even though it seems like it is definitely out of the way, it is in the parking lot and people would hit it for sure.

Mr. King asked Chris do we have the original approved C2. Mr. Flinn responded right here and provided it to Mr. King. Mr. King stated at the time this was approved under the old regulations, there was a requirement for screening mechanicals of some kind. He said Chris, I know that you in your notes were quoting the present regulations and what the present requirement would be; did you have the other one here as well. Mr. Flinn responded I do, but I didn't look at it because it is the current one. Mr. King clarified the current one would require gas meters and such. Mr. Flinn stated that is the section, the new regulations; that is what is reviewable. Mr. Flynn clarified that is what you have to review under for this application.

Mr. Flinn asked do you want me to look for what it may say in the old regulations. Mr. King said it seems to me that one of the criteria reviewed was that there were landscaping and screening as specified at the time. Mr. Flynn stated Chris, in regards to this statement: "Ground level mechanical and telecommunications shall be designed so not to encroach."; the question here is visible from any frontage. He said in regards to the new regulations, when they say frontage does that mean on any road. Mr. Flinn read the definition of frontage from the new section of the regulations. Mr. Flynn asked did you just say travelled lanes. Mr. Flinn read the definitions for public frontage and private frontage, noting this property is bounded by Route 15 and Dickenson Street.

Mr. King said it has two because it is a corner lot. Mr. Flynn clarified it has two principal building facades. Mr. Flinn stated that is the current definitions of Section 13, which is the district that the property is in, which we are all learning how to apply. Mr. King asked Chris whether there is anything you want to get testimony on. Mr. Flinn responded nothing further from the applicant. He asked whether you still want me to look for old regulations. Mr. King responded we can belay that until deliberation, thank you.

Mr. York asked whether there is screening if we go back to your plat, C2O2, the site plan; screening from the other lots. Mr. Flinn displayed the site plan. Mr. York asked the applicant to describe the screening from adjacent lots. Mr. Armstrong responded the original proposed fence was from the corner of the bump out of the building down this end to where that shed roof is. He stated right now,

there is no screening, but this portion of the building blocks it from the north and the whole building blocks it from Route 15.

Mr. York asked what is there to screen it from this house. Mr. Armstrong responded there wouldn't be any screening from there. Mr. York clarified there is no screening from there. Mr. Armstrong responded no, all these trees were cleared for construction. Mr. York clarified there is no screening to the lot in the upper right. Mr. Armstrong clarified the location and responded no. Mr. York stated in order to meet the requirement about having the mechanicals screened from adjacent lots. He asked why aren't you proposing screening at those two borders. Mr. Armstrong asked at those borders, or screening right here. Mr. York stated I understand you have said why you don't want to screen right there, but the rules say that you have to screen from adjacent lots. He said you could move the screening back to the adjacent borders and put the screening there; why aren't you proposing that. Mr. Armstrong responded that is not something we had thought about to be honest with you. He noted I am not sure if those landowners would want fences right on the property lines or not.

## **Public Comment**

- Mr. King asked if there was any public comment. Mr. Villeneuve stated the following:

  I am the applicant on this application originally. I owned the land at that time. One thing that may or may not concern you, I have an agreement between myself and the people that I sold this land to that they would build it according to the prints that we okayed and have legal papers showing it is supposed to be built a certain way. That is not really your concern I guess to some extent, but that was supposed to be part of the plan; that is what we agreed to is to put the screening where it was. One reason that I insisted that that be there was because of the noise annoying the property where the house is. Also, the boundary line that is right on the south and east side that shows clear, about 25'; if you follow that open space along the boundary.
- Mr. Flinn clarified the location. Mr. Villeneuve agreed. He continued his comments as follows:

  From that boundary line, it comes by the sidewalk. That is going to be sold back to me in the agreement because we didn't go under a Planned Unit Development. When we changed it to a Planned Unit Development, we needed those setbacks, but we no longer need them, so the boundary line will be even closer than what is stated. That is all in legal agreements. That being said, one boundary line is going to come even closer and like I said the noise. Another thing that you haven't discussed, when you have the shed that is on the corner of the building, the west side where loading dock is and there is that slanted roof from where you took the picture. That is supposed to be enclosed, the fence also goes around that area, which has nothing to do with the access to the equipment that is being discussed. Stuff flies out of there, with the wind and so forth with no fence around it, comes on my property and around on their own property and is a little bit of a nuisance. I am not sure, but the trash area that is marked with a chain-link fence around it; they are also throwing stuff outside of that area at this time. I don't know if you happen to have a picture of that or anything.
- Mr. Flinn stated I don't have a picture of that. Mr. Villeneuve continued, stating the following: I think that may or may not be a violation. As far as the fence goes, the noise is a big factor and the one that they are bringing forth now that somebody is going to run into it, doesn't set with me. There is plenty of room to drive through there with a tractor trailer for deliveries and so on. Snow plowing, if you have to drive around the yellow barrier that is protecting the gas, which is about 1 ½', you could build it further away; not have the fence on the cement, you could have it in front of the cement. I think the way it was supposed to be built was on the cement and maybe rollers, but that is an engineering issue and that is their problem. When they are building, it, it

can very easily be constructed in front of that facility to open the door, or slide it one way or another. For those reasons, I am dead set against any changes.

Mr. King stated I didn't get any questions, but noted the concerns. He asked if there were any other questions. There were none. Mr. King said Chris, you had mentioned that we need to decide what to do with this and whether we should close the hearing. Mr. Flinn said I think the applicant has presented their case; the Board has gotten their questions answered; and there is nothing outstanding to obtain. He explained I just put it in there as an option. The DRB members discussed the matter, agreeing they were ready to close the hearing. Mr. King closed the public hearing. He explained the applicant would receive a decision within 45 days, noting it is usually sooner.

## 4. Approve minutes from September 8, 2016.

On a motion by Ms. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Jacobs, the DRB unanimously approved the minutes from September 8, 2016 as amended.

The Development Review Board entered deliberative session at 8:01 p.m.

The Development Review Board adjourned at X:XX p.m.

